

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR (Arctic) REPORT [REDACTED]

SUBJECT 1. Ice Conditions Encountered in the Kara Sea DATE DISTR. 28 January 1959

2. Soviet Naval Vessels Sighted in Kolskiy Zaliv NO. PAGES 1

REFERENCES RD

DATE OF INFO.

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PLACE & DATE ACQ.

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE

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Three reports describing ice conditions encountered in the Kara Sea and Soviet naval vessels sighted in Kolskiy Zaliv [REDACTED]

Att. No.	Description
1	Yugorskiy Strait impassable en route to Igarka. Passage broken through by icebreakers. Attempt to pass through Kara Straits on return voyage unsuccessful and passage had to be made through Yugorskiy Strait with aid of icebreaker.
2	Kara Strait blocked by ice; icebreaker convoy through Yugorskiy Strait. [REDACTED] vessel instructed by INFLOT to avoid an area closed to shipping from 20 September to 25 October. No naval vessels or aircraft sighted [REDACTED]
3	Sighting of following naval vessels and aircraft: [REDACTED] three large vessels [REDACTED] eight unidentified submarines; other unidentified naval vessels three two-engine jet planes.

1. [REDACTED] Comment: [REDACTED] announced by the Soviet press as the locations and time of the Northern Fleet exercises. 50X1-HUM

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

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1. ICE CONDITIONS - NAVIGATION:

the Yegorskiy Strait

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was blocked by packed

ice.

the icebreaker KAPITAN MELAHOV came

and entered the ice accompanied by two other ships.

It was foggy and there was snow once in a while. The convoy followed a route close to the shore, on the southern side.

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the icebreaker ERMAK joined the convoy.

The weather worsened during the night, and the wind increased to hurricane velocity with snow.

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the wind died down. It was still very difficult to get through the ice, and the tramp steamers had to follow the icebreakers very closely in order to get through at all. The KAPITAN MELAHOV turned in her course in the afternoon, and the ERMAK continued her escort job alone.

The ice became thinner as time went on.

the journey continued through fog. The ice was still thick, but it was possible to force a way through in spots, without the

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aid of the icebreaker. There was thick fog on both days.

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1. ICE CONDITIONS:

[redacted] at Yugorsky [redacted] a Soviet
tramp-steamer, the SS VOLGA, lay there with another [redacted] ship, waiting
to escort them through the Straits and into the Kara Sea. At 1600 hours,
the vessels had passed the Straits and immediately afterwards, met the first
ice-belt that consisted of floating ice, some of which was large, thick pi
The vessels became separated from each other, and the [redacted] ship found her
own way, going very slowly and with much maneuvering. [redacted] the ship
emerged from the ice, and the trip continued at full speed until night. At
night, the speed was reduced. [redacted] there was no particular ice, and
the ship continued at full speed [redacted] On passing
Dickson Light [redacted] the ship met some ice that yielded
very easily. The waters south of the Light were free of [redacted]

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It was snowing heavily. [redacted] the snow was even denser, and it was impossible to see the lighthouses. The ship anchored in the river, and then continued [redacted] when the weather eased up a little. [redacted] the ship was out of Yenisey and immediately met compact new ice, about 4 inches thick. Dickson Radio sent regular ice bulletins, giving the positions for the best places to get through. The new ice was evenly thick the whole way, with pieces of old ice that had frozen on to the new, in various places. [redacted] the new ice became markedly denser and the ship continued at reduced speed and on varying courses. [redacted] the ship emerged into clear waters and passed the Kara Straits. [redacted] There was continual snowfall and poor visibility throughout the whole journey.

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No naval vessels or aircraft were sighted [redacted] either in the Kara Sea or the Barents Sea. On passing the Kara Straits [redacted] the ship was challenged by Morse lamp in Russian, by an unknown

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vessel. The signals could not be interpreted and the vessel disappeared shortly thereafter. She did not carry navigation or any other sort of lights, and could not be seen.

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- [REDACTED]
1. [REDACTED] two naval vessels were sighted six or seven nautical miles north of Kildin Island. The vessels proceeded in a column, with an intervening distance of about 200 meters. The course was Northwest, speed, about thirty knots.

The vessels were alike [REDACTED] length, about 125 meters, sharply sloping bow, flush deck with marked spring on the fore-deck; a cannon tower forward as well as smaller arms on the platform forward of the bridge; mast and smokestack astern of the bridge, one mast and smokestack approximately midships; deckhouse with small arms and a cannon tower on the aft deck. (See sketch).

[REDACTED] three large vessels lay tied up at buoys in Vayenga Bay. Farther inside the bay were two smaller vessels. It was dusk, and visibility was poor.

Two of the large vessels were alike [REDACTED] length, about 180 meters, long forward deck with two cannon towers, elevated midships with a mast aft, a perpendicular

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2.

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smokestack, mast, straight smokestack with an elevation aft, break down to after-deck, two cannon tower [REDACTED]

The third large vessel was possibly slightly shorter [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] two cannon towers on the fore-deck, high bridge structure with a short mast aft; perpendicular smokestack, break down to low after-deck, mast, straight smokestack and two cannon towers on after-deck.

The other two smaller vessels lay farther inside the bay, and were the size of destroyers; forecastle to the middle of the bridge, two tipped smokestacks and two masts. Recognition marks and other details could not be seen.

On passing Rosta on 3 October, it was completely dark and there was very little light being used in the shipping yards area. It was, therefore, difficult to judge the situation, there.

A large vessel, pennant number 6, and having the same appearance, on the whole [REDACTED] was tied up alongside the pier. Seven or eight smaller naval vessels, all of which had scaffolding around their masts, were tied up side-by-side nearby. Eight submarines of various sizes were observed near the piers. One submarine had been pulled up on land and was being chopped up.

[REDACTED] it was completely dark.

2. AIRCRAFT: [REDACTED] three aircraft over Kola Inlet. The planes took off from an airfield inside of Vayenga Bay, and disappeared on a northerly course at low altitude.

The aircraft were silvery gray and shiny. The wings were somewhat angled back and had two jet engines. (See sketch).

[REDACTED]

4. COMMERCIAL SHIPS: There was very little harbor traffic during the source's visit. [REDACTED] only one loaded tankship of about 14,000 tons br. She was painted gray and bore definite signs of having been through the ice.

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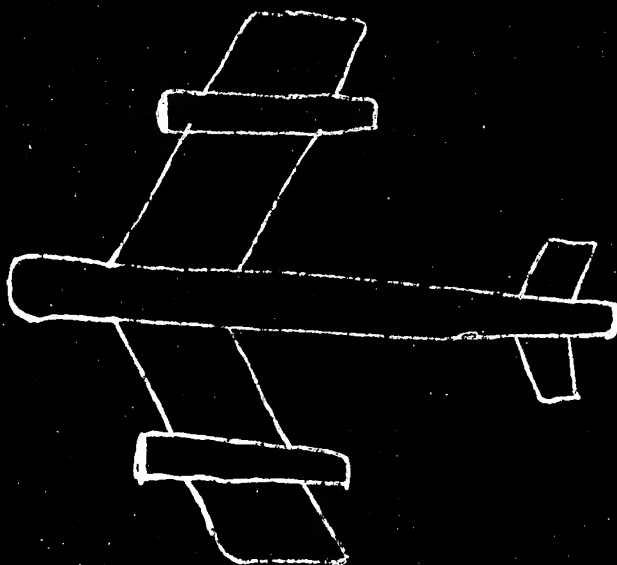
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